



CHENG
WAS A STRATEGIST SERVING

GONG
YING

UNDER THE WANG

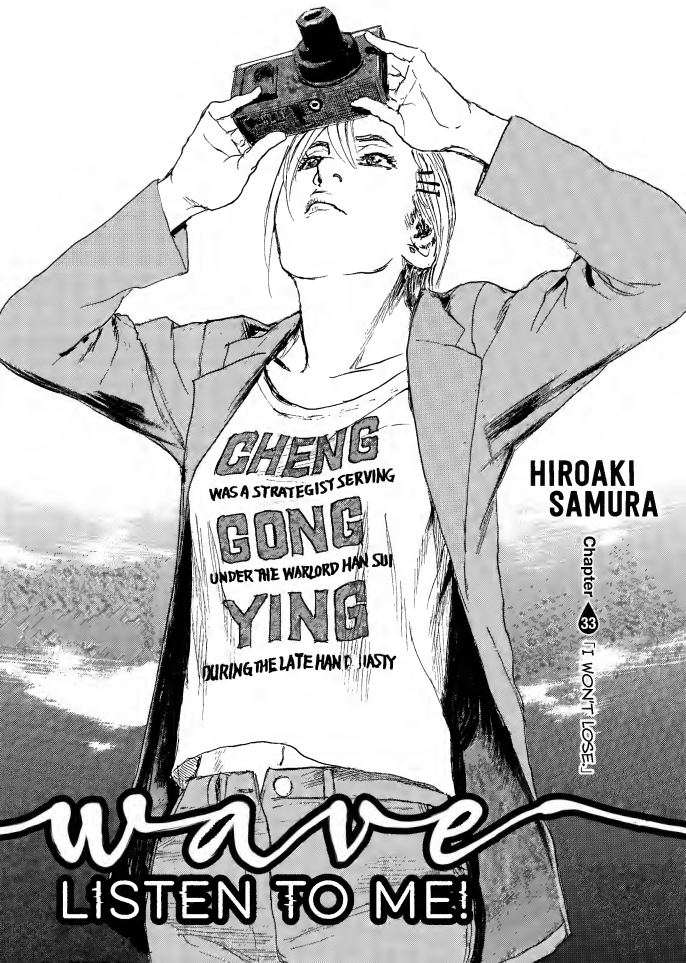
URING THE LATE HAN

YING

YING

YING

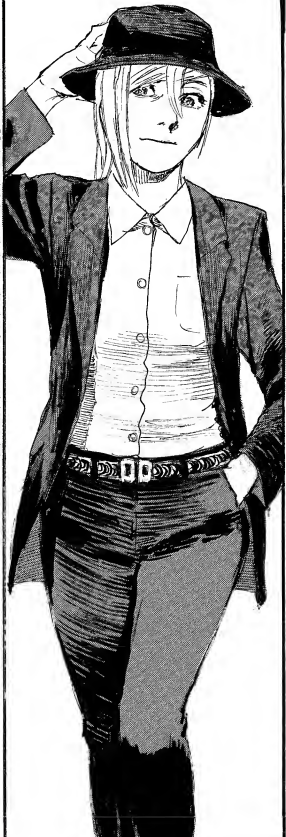
HIROAKI SAMURA



**HIROAKI
SAMURA**

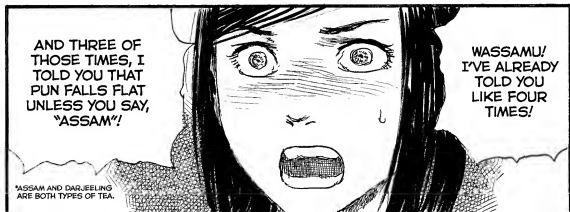
Chapter 33 「I WON'T LOSE」

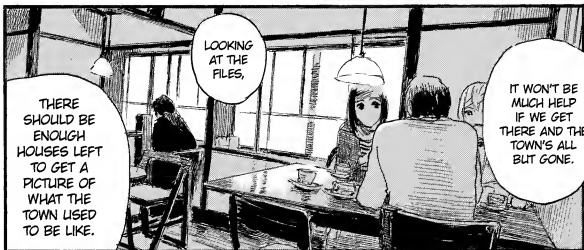
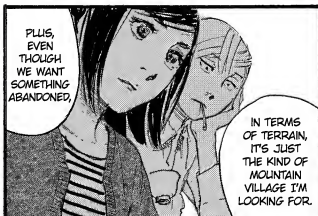
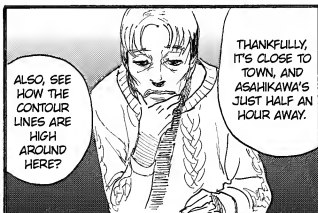
wave
LISTEN TO ME!



THE
STORY
SO
FAR

UNDER FM STATION WORKER MATO'S GUIDANCE, MINARE KODA HAS MADE HER DEBUT AS A RADIO DJ, AND WHILE ENCOUNTERING NONSTOP TWISTS AND TURNS, SOMEHOW MANAGES TO TAKE THINGS ONE SHOW AT A TIME. MEANWHILE, SCRIPT WRITER KUREKO MOVES TO MAKE A CAREER SHIFT AND BEGINS PLANNING A TRIP TO GATHER MATERIAL FOR A NEW BOOK, TO WHICH HIS SECRET ADMIRER, MIZUHO, VOLUNTEERS TO ACT AS HIS ASSISTANT. SOMEHOW, MINARE ENDS UP GOING WITH THEM TO RECORD THE WHOLE THING.







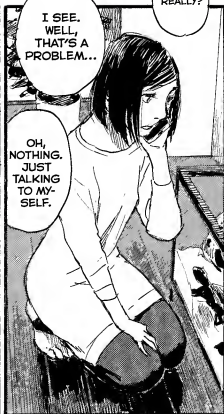
TURTLE
SITTERS
FALL
THROUGH?

OH...
I DIDN'T
GET A
CHANCE
TO ASK.



NO, IT'S
FINE. TAKE
IT EASY.

SAY HI TO
UNCLE AND
HIDE-CHAN
FOR ME.
OKAY, BYE.



I SEE.
WELL,
THAT'S A
PROBLEM...

REALLY?

OH,
NOTHING.
JUST
TALKING
TO MY-
SELF.



Anything
for the
woman
I love.

WORRY
NOT. JUST
LEAVE IT
TO ME.



MIND IF
I ASK
YOU A
FAVOR?

HEY,
NAKA-
HARA-
KUN?

As
usual

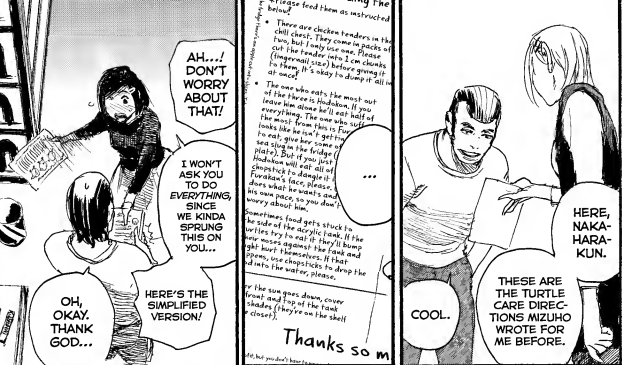


UH-OH.

I GUESS
THEY'RE
GONNA BE
VISITING SOME
RELATIVES
WHO RUN A
HOT-SPRING
INN IN
NIIGATA.

MUST BE
NICE HAVING
RELATIVES
WITH PERKS
LIKE THAT,
THOUGH.





AH...!
DON'T WORRY
ABOUT THAT!

I WON'T
ASK YOU TO
DO EVERYTHING,
SINCE WE KINDA
SPRUNG THIS ON
YOU...

OH,
OKAY. THANK
GOD...

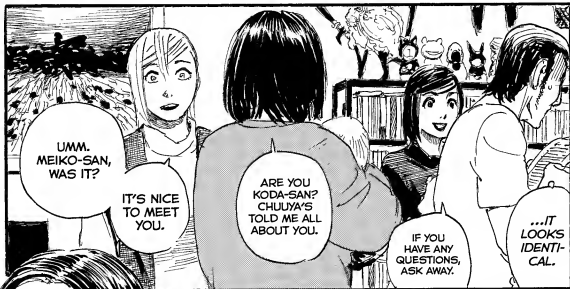
HERE'S THE
SIMPLIFIED
VERSION!

...leave feed them as instructed
...
There are chicken tenders in the
chill chest. They come in packs of
two, but I only use one. Please
cut the tender into 1 cm chunks
(fingernail size) before giving it
to them. It's okay to dump it all in
at once!
The one who eats the most out
of the three is Hoshikawa. If you
leave him alone he'll eat half of
everything. The one who suffers
the most from this is Furukawa.
He looks like he isn't getting
to eat it, give her some of the
sea slug on the fridge (on a
plate). But if you just
Hoshikawa will eat all of it.
Furukawa to dangle it.
Does what he wants and
his own pace, so you don't
worry about him.
Sometimes food gets stuck to
the side of the acrylic tank. If the
wires try to eat it they'll bump
against the tank and get hurt.
If that happens, use chopsticks to drop the
food into the water, please.
If the sun goes down, cover
front and top of the tank
shades (they're on the shelf
in closet).
Thanks so m

COOL.

HERE,
NAKA-
HARA-
KUN.

THESE ARE
THE TURTLE
CARE DIREC-
TIONS MIZUHO
WROTE FOR
ME BEFORE.



UMM.
MEIKO-SAN,
WAS IT?

IT'S NICE
TO MEET
YOU.

ARE YOU
KODA-SAN?
CHUIUYA'S
TOLD ME ALL
ABOUT YOU.

IF YOU
HAVE ANY
QUESTIONS,
ASK AWAY.

...IT
LOOKS
IDENTI-
CAL.



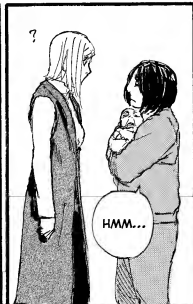
THIS IS
KINDA
RANDOM,

BUT
WHAT DO YOU
LOOK FOR
IN A MAN,
KODA-SAN?



OF
WHAT?

...YEAH,
I CAN
SEE THE
APPEAL.



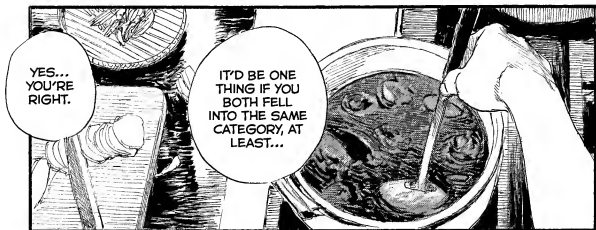
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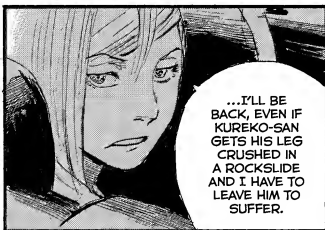
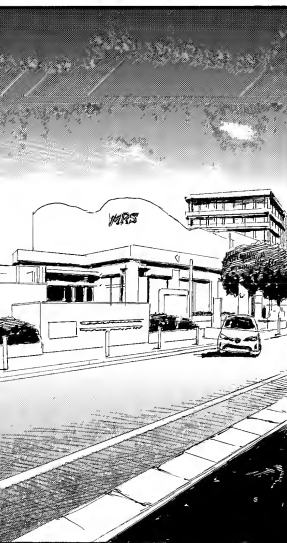
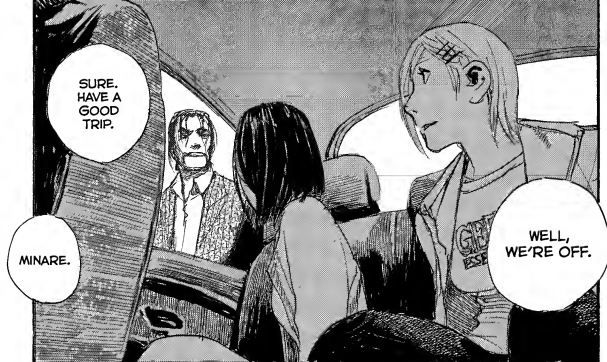
HMM...



*RIKISABURO KAKURYU, A MONGOLIAN BORN SUMO WRESTLER.









OH, YEAH.
YOU WEREN'T
THERE, HUH,
MIZUHO?

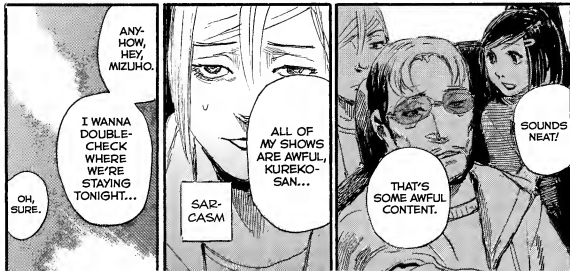
WHAT BIT
WAS HE
TALKING
ABOUT?

WE
RECORDED
A SHOW ON
ONE OF MY
DAYS OFF IN
CASE I GOT
SICK OR
SOMETHING.



IT WAS SURPRISINGLY CHEAP. ANYWAY,
ANSWER ME! SAY YOU'LL MARRY ME...
WHAT? WHO AM I? YOU DUMBASS...
I'M ONE OF THE GUYS FROM THE OFFICE
ACROSS FROM YOUR APARTMENT.
I WATCH YOU EVERY DAY! YOU ALREADY
HAVE A FIANCEE? I KNOW THAT! IT'S THAT
PUNK TSUCHIDA FROM FUJINAGA CO.,
RIGHT? THE DUDE WHO LOOKS LIKE
HE CAME FROM CHIBA PREFECTURE.
I CAN FIGURE OUT THAT MUCH IN A DAY.
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE YAKUZA.
OH, YEAH. TSUCHIDA HAS A LITTLE SISTER.
DOESN'T HE? ONE WHO GOES TO AN
ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL. SHE'S A LOOKER.
THAT ONE. HEH, HEH... OH, NOTHIN'.
JUST TALKING TO MYSELF. ANYWAY,
YOU'RE MARRYING ME ONE WAY
OR ANOTHER. GET THAT...

"A VERY YAKUZA PROPOSAL"
ENOUGH. JUST ANSWER ME ALREADY!
WELL? I'M ASKIN' YOU TO MARRY ME!
DAIGO'S NEXT TO ME? HELL NO, HE
AIN'T! ARE YOU SCREWIN' WITH ME?
I'M SWEATING BULLETS HERE DOIN'
MY BEST TO MAKE THE MOOD RIGHT,
Y'KNOW. SHOW A LITTLE SINCERITY,
WILL YA? I EVEN CALLED THE CHIEKO
KINBARA STRINGS INTO THE OFFICE
TO HYPE THINGS UP. THE KINBARA
STRINGS! NOW THE OTHER GUYS ARE
LAUGHING AT ME! DO YOU HAVE ANY
IDEA HOW MUCH IT COSTS TO HIRE
THEM? I COULD BUY JUNYA'S LIVER
WITH THAT MONEY! WHAT, YOU DON'T
KNOW JUNYA? HE'S ONE OF THE
YOUNGER GUYS WHO FUCKED UP
THE OTHER DAY.



ANY-
HOW,
HEY,
MIZUHO.

I WANNA
DOUBLE-
CHECK
WHERE
WE'RE
STAYING
TONIGHT...

OH,
SURE.

SAR-
CASM

ALL OF
MY SHOWS
ARE AWFUL,
KUREKO-
SAN...

THAT'S
SOME AWFUL
CONTENT.

SOUNDS
NEAT!

FINE BY
ME. THAT'S
PERFECT,
ACTUALLY.



LET'S SEE...
WE CHECK IN
TO THE WBF
GRANDE
ASHIKAWA
HOTEL AT 6.

SORRY, BUT
IT LOOKS
LIKE WE'RE
GONNA HAVE
TO SHARE
A ROOM,
MINARE-SAN.

HUH?!

UM...
Y-YEAH...

YOU
WANT
SOME
ALONE
TIME
WITH
KUREKO-
SAN AT
NIGHT,
RIGHT?

HM?
UHH...

What
plans

LET'S
WORK
OUT A
PLAN FOR
TONIGHT,
THEN.

I MEAN,

QUIT PUTTING
WORDS IN
MY MOUTH!
WHAT DO YOU
MEAN, "UM...
Y-YEAH"?!

KUREKO-SAN'LL
PROBABLY GO
RIGHT TO BED
AFTER HAVING
A DRINK AT THE
BAR, SO YOU
SHOULD JOIN
HIM AND STRIKE
UP SOME
CONVERSATION.

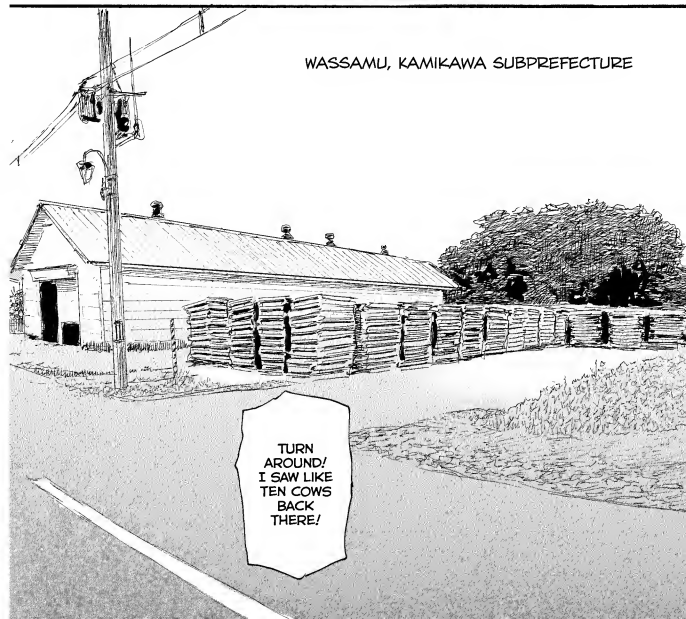
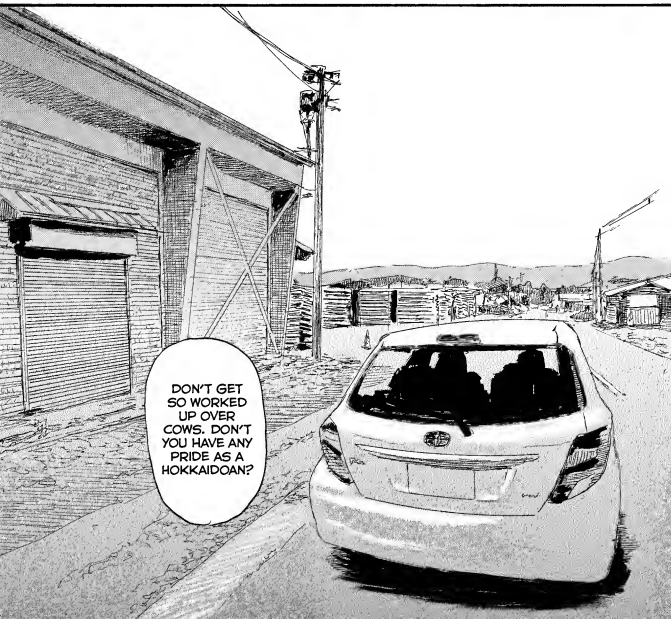
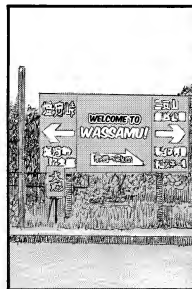
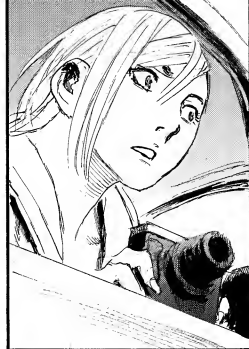
DOESN'T
MATTER
WHAT YOU
TALK ABOUT.
SEGMENTS
ON BOOGIE-
WOOGIE RADIO
YOU THOUGHT
WERE GOOD,
ANYTHING...

MINARE-
SAN!

THEN,
NOT EVEN THE
PERPETUALLY
COOL KUREKO-
SAN'LL BE ABLE
TO PLAY DUMB
AND INVITE YOU
TO DRINK IN HIS
ROOM.

AND WHEN YOU
DO, IT JUST SO
HAPPENS I'LL
HAVE FALLEN
ASLEEP WITH THE
DOOR LOCKED!
I'LL HANG ON
TO THE KEY, OF
COURSE.

THEN, COME
BACK TO THE
ROOM AFTER
GETTING
PLASTERED
TOGETHER.







OH,
SURE.

IT'S A
LARGE AREA,
SO IF WE COULD
NARROW DOWN
OUR STOPS,
THAT'D BE A
BIG HELP.

I THOUGHT
I'D COPY ONE OF
THE OLD MAPS OF
THE TORYO-TOWA
AREA BEFORE WE
HEAD OUT.



MY NAME'S
HOKAKUSHI.
I'LL BE YOUR
GUIDE TODAY.

I'VE COME
TO THE TORYO-
TOWA AREA
OF WASSAMU
TO RESEARCH
DEPOPULATED
VILLAGES.

GOOD EVENING,
EVERYONE.
WAVE, LISTEN
TO ME'S MINARE
KODA HERE.

SO,
TODAY,

BY THE
WAY, I TRIED
IMITATING
YUKA KINO-
SHITA* WITH
THAT INTRO.

ARE YOU
DOING A
RADIO SHOW
ABOUT
WASSAMU?

I CAME
TO GATHER
MATERIAL
FOR A BOOK
I'M WRITING.
SORRY.

ACTUALLY,
IT'S NOT FOR
THE RADIO.

*YUKA KINOSHITA: A YOUTUBE VLOGGER WHO SPECIALISES IN EATING GRATUITOUS PORTIONS OF FOOD.

OH, THAT...
THERE USED TO BE
A 1,000-YEAR OLD
MONGOLIAN OAK
TREE THERE, BUT
THE HEAVY SNOW
IN 2012 KNOCKED
IT OVER.

I
WOULDN'T
SUGGEST
STOPPING
THERE.
BEARS
HAVE
TAKEN
UP RESI-
DENCE.

HEY, IT SAYS
THERE'S A
MASSIVE
TREE OVER
THERE.

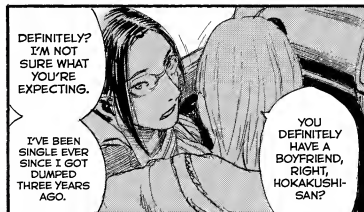


I HEAR
THEIR WEAK
POINT'S
THEIR
NOSE.

BUT THE
VILLAGE SITE
WE'RE HEADING
MOSTLY HAS
PAVED ROADS, SO
YOU DON'T HAVE
TO WORRY.

THEIR PEAK
SEASON STARTS
AROUND NOW
AND ENDS AT
THE START OF
NOVEMBER,

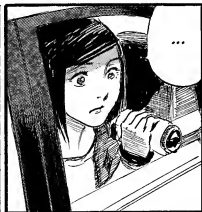
DO YOU
SEE A LOT
OF BROWN
BEARS
AROUND
HERE?



DEFINITELY?
I'M NOT
SURE WHAT
YOU'RE
EXPECTING.

I'VE BEEN
SINGLE EVER
SINCE I GOT
DUMPED
THREE YEARS
AGO.

YOU
DEFINITELY
HAVE A
BOYFRIEND,
RIGHT,
HOKAKUSHI-
SAN?



SORRY,
MIZUHO. I
SHOULDN'T
HAVE
ASKED...

WHY'D
YOU
PASS
THE
BALL TO
ME?

OH,
LOOK.
A FOX.



EVEN
WITH
THOSE
GUNGNIR-
CLASS
BA-
ZINGAS?!

THE LAST
THING MY
EX TOLD
ME WAS, "I
NEVER TOLD
YOU, BUT
I'VE BEEN
TRAUMATIZED
BY BIG TITS
EVER SINCE
I WAS A
KID."



IT'S
FINE. THE
FIRST DAY'S
MORE LIKE
LOCATION
HUNTING,
ANYWAY.

THINK
OF IT LIKE
CHARGING
UP FOR THE
DAYS TO
COME.

I DIDN'T
GET TO
SHOW YOU
AROUND
MUCH
TODAY...

UHH.
WE'RE
CURRENTLY
AT THE
OLDEST
SUKIYAKI*
RESTAURANT
IN ASHIKAWA.

ARE YOU
SURE IT'S
OKAY FOR
ME TO JOIN
YOU?



*SUKIYAKI: A JAPANESE DISH CONSISTING OF BEEF, VEGETABLES, AND OTHER INGREDIENTS SIMMERED IN A SOY SAUCE-BASED BROTH.



WHY IS
OUR GUIDE
JOINING US,
YOU ASK?

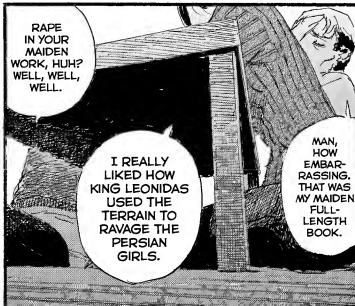
BECAUSE
APPAR-
ENTLY, SHE
LIVES IN
ASHIKAWA.

I READ
CONTINENTAL
PUBLISHING'S
300 WHEN
I WAS IN
SCHOOL.

NEVER HAD
SOMEONE
CALL ME "THE"
BEFORE, BUT
YEAH.

WHAT?!

YOU'RE THE
HISAKI KURE,
KUREKO-SAN?!



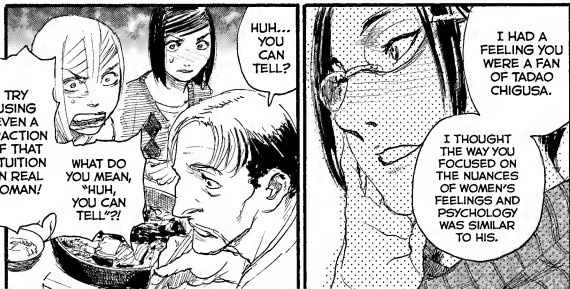
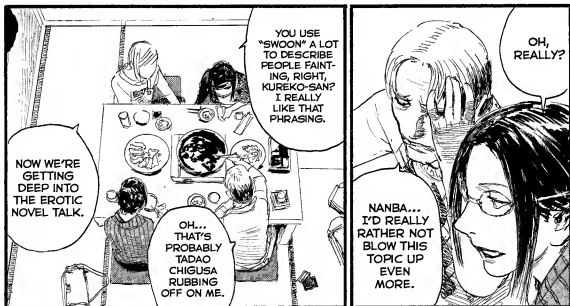
RAPE
IN YOUR
MAIDEN
WORK, HUH?
WELL, WELL,
WELL.

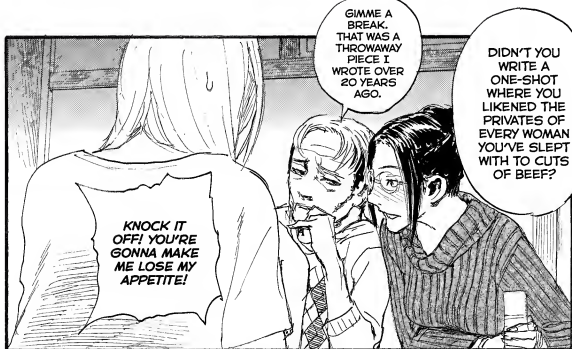
I REALLY
LIKED HOW
KING LEONIDAS
USED THE
TERRAIN TO
RAVAGE THE
PERSIAN
GIRLS.

MAN,
HOW
EMBAR-
RASSING.
THAT WAS
MY MAIDEN
FULL-
LENGTH
BOOK.



IT WAS
INTRIGUING
TO SEE
WESTERN
HISTORICAL
SCENES
USED IN
AN EROTIC
NOVEL.





**KNOCK IT
OFF! YOU'RE
GONNA MAKE
ME LOSE MY
APPETITE!**

**GIMME A
BREAK.
THAT WAS A
THROWAWAY
PIECE I
WROTE OVER
20 YEARS
AGO.**

**DIDN'T YOU
WRITE A
ONE-SHOT
WHERE YOU
LIKENED THE
PRIVATES OF
EVERY WOMAN
YOU'VE SLEPT
WITH TO CUTS
OF BEEF?**



**THE
WAITRESS
STANDS
SILENTLY IN
THE AWKWARD
ATMOSPHERE.**

**10 PM,
ASHIKAWA.
BOTH THE
CONVERSATION
AND SWEATER
CONTENTS ARE
PACKED WITH
MEAT.**

**WHAT
CUT OF
MEAT AM I,
THEN?!**

**EVERYONE
SEEMS
TO HAVE
FORGOTTEN
THEIR JOB!**

**PREMIUM
SKIRT
STEAK,
MAYBE?**

**HELL
IF I
KNOW...**

